

**Mountain Education Center Inc.  
Governing Board Minutes  
In Person held at  
White County Ninth Grade Academy  
3 P.M. on January 13, 2010**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Richard Behrens – Superintendent, Towns County  
Mrs. Debra Seabolt for Dr. Paul Shaw – Superintendent, White County  
Mr. Mitchel Barrett – Superintendent/Principal, MECHS  
Mrs. Anita Middleton – Collaborative Board Member  
Mr. Tighe Day-Lewis for Dr. Lewis McAfee – Superintendent, Union County  
Mrs. Wendy Reynolds for Mr. Mark Henson – Superintendent, Fannin County  
Mr. Mike Ballew - Superintendent, Pickens County  
Mr. Dewey Moye – Superintendent, Lumpkin County  
Dr. Franklin Johnson - Collaborative Board Member  
Mr. Barry Pritchett, Collaborative Board Member

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Larry Shook, MEC Technology Director	Mrs. Judy Waldroup, MEC Site Administrator/Test Coordinator
Mrs. Andrea Hulsey, MEC Finance Director	Mrs. Carol West, MEC Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Aundrea Wilson, MEC Personnel Director	Mrs. Carol Reid, MEC Administrative Assistant
Dr. Wayne Lovell, MEC Site Administrator	Mrs. Trilla Pruitt, Director of Curriculum
Mr. George Counter, MEC Public Relations	Mr. William Sperin, MEC Technology
Mr. Daren Sledge, MEC Site Administrator	Mr. Steven Gill, MEC Site Administrator

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Rep. Stephen Allison – Collaborative Board Member  
Mr. Randy Parson-Superintendent, Gilmer County  
Mr. Mark Henson – Superintendent, Fannin County  
Dr. Lewis McAfee – Superintendent, Union County

**GUEST PRESENT:**

Dr. Sherrie Whiten-Superintendent, Stephens County  
Mr. Robert Costley – Superintendent, Habersham County  
Mr. Gilbert Barrett, Habersham County Board Member

The Mountain Education Center, Inc. Governing Board met in person for a meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 3 pm.

There was no Public Forum. Dr. Behrens called the meeting to order.

Mr. Barrett gave the invocation and Dr. Behrens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM I:**

Motion by Mr. Ballew, seconded by Mr. Moye **to approve the agenda.**

Motion carried. All voted yes.

**ITEM II:**

Motion by Mr. Pritchett, seconded by Ms. Middleton **to approve November's Governing Board minutes.**

Motion carried. All voted yes.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Clarification Vice Chair/Secretary**

Dr. Behrens explained Dr. Shaw's position as MEC Governing Board's Vice Chair and Secretary. The question was raised "Do the positions need to be separated".

**ITEM III:**

Motion by Mr. Moyer, seconded by Mr. Ballew **to approve the positions of secretary and vice chair to be as one position.**

Motion carried. All voted yes.

**Fiscal Agent Services**

Mr. Barrett announced that today was the deadline for applications to be submitted for anyone interested in becoming fiscal agent for MEC. Mr. Barrett and Ms. Hulseby talked to school lawyers. No Bids were received but Towns County submitted a letter of intent to continue existing services through fiscal year 2010-11 at the current rate.

Motion by Mr. Moyer, seconded by Mr. Ballew **to approve that Towns County remain the MEC fiscal agent through the 2010-11 school year.**

Motion carried. All voted yes.

**Extension of Mr. Mitchel Barrett's contract**

**ITEM IV:**

Motion by Mr. Ballew, seconded by Mr. Moyer **to approve to go into Executive Session.**

Motion carried. All voted yes.

**ITEM V:**

Motion by Mr. Ballew, seconded by Dr. Johnson **to approve to come out of Executive Session.**

Motion carried. All voted yes.

**ITEM VI:**

Motion by Mr. Moyer, seconded by Mr. Ballew **to approve the extension of Mr. Mitchel Barrett's contract as superintendent/principal until July 2013.**

Motion carried. All voted yes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Financial Report**

Ms. Hulseby presented December's financial report. After completing 6 months of the fiscal year, MEC is two percent under budget. The last worksheet handout compares the financial position of MEC in 12/31/08 (FY 2009) to 12/31/09 (FY 2010). The ending Fund Balance for Dec. 2008 was \$512,863.89 and for Dec. 2009 it was \$858,118.04.

**ITEM VII:**

Motion by Mr. Moyer, seconded by Dr. Johnson **to approve the financial report for December 2009.**

Motion carried. All voted yes.

**Finance Projection for the Future of MEC and MEC Audit**

Ms. Hulseby reported \$180,000 as a "start up cost" (excluding any renovations or repairs) with a \$55,000 monthly budget for the new MEC Pickens Site. Plans are to open this site July 2010. She reported MEC should have a \$600,000 balance without a mid-term adjustment on June 30, 2010. Good news! The audit for MEC was completed in December with no findings. Mr. Dewey Moyer commended Ms. Hulseby on a job well done.

### **Recognize Dr. Paul Shaw**

Dr. Richard Behrens and Mr. Mitchel Barrett recognized Dr. Paul Shaw for being chosen as the Georgia "Superintendent of the Year" however; he was not present at the meeting.

### **Proposal for Central Office**

MEC has grown. Due to the need for workspace, storage and a centralized location for conducting administrative functions, MEC is proposing the establishment of a central office. White County Board of Education met recently and voted to approve the rental of the WCBOE house to MEC as a new central office with WCBOE paying for remodeling and MEC paying rent. The contract was drawn up with a "90-day kick out clause." This central office will house the superintendent/principal, finance director, system staff, technology department and any other personnel as needed in the future. The MEC central office plans to open by March 2010. The contract is drawn up with a lease through the end of the Charter contract on June 30, 2016.

### **ITEM VIII:**

Motion by Mr. Moye, seconded by Mr. Pritchett **to approve to pursue this option for a new central office.**

Motion carried. All voted yes.

### **Transfer Credit Procedure**

Mrs. Pruitt reported on the decision from the committee concerning transfer credit procedures.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Testing**

Dr. Richard Krise, Pioneer Resa, reported on a curriculum analysis completed by Jeremy Williams. The report contained results comparing of the different curricula used at MEC.

#### **Improve Social Studies Scores**

Mrs. Waldroup and Mrs. Pruitt reported in school year 2008-09 that the MEC students met AYP goals except in U.S. History. Recommendations were made on how the History goals could be met in the future.

#### **LAP (Life Action Plan)**

Mr. Barrett explained that the purpose of the LAP is to help our students have an organized plan for their studies at the MEC. Life Action Plan is an information system in FileMakerPro to help students by giving them a timeline for graduating. By February 1<sup>st</sup> the goal is to have LAPs completed and active on 50% of all students by March 1<sup>st</sup> and each month there after 95% of all students.

The first new MEC Student Service Newsletter was presented to the Board.

#### **Update on Stimulus Money**

Mr. Day-Lewis updated the Board on the stimulus money for Special Education services at MEC. We have \$111,000 to spend in 2010 and 2011. He reported on programs the money may be spent on.

#### **Comparison SY 08-09 Out of School students**

Mr. Barrett presented to the Board a report on the numbers of students who had transferred from the collaborative counties to MEC during the 2008-09 School Year.

### **MEC Community Information**

Mr. George Counter presented the MEC public service announcement that is currently on Cable TV networks and closed circuit TV. He gave the Board members a list of the radio, TV and newspaper outlets that are running these announcements and ads for MEC and a list of the various community members that MEC is contacting to present the MEC story. He reported that Barbara Waldschmidt, MEC counselor, is now assisting him with the Public Relations for MEC. Mr. Counter, Mrs. Pruitt and Mr. Brad Barnes are going to make a MEC presentation at the NovaNET conference in February.

### **Update report on MEC Habersham site**

Mr. Lovell, Site Administrator for the Habersham site, gave an updated reported on their progress. In August 2009 the site had 50 students and as of January 12, 2010 they have 148 active students.

Mr. Costley, Habersham Superintendent, thanked the MEC Board for opening the Habersham site.

### **Resignation of Tammy Teasley, Full-Time Secretary/Registrar at the Habersham site and New Personnel:**

- a. Joe Heaton - hourly SpEd parapro (IDEA ARRA Funds), Habersham site
- b. Robin Jamison - hourly parapro, Lumpkin site
- c. Sarah Welch - hourly substitute teacher, Gilmer site
- d. Faye Thomas - hourly substitute receptionist, Habersham site
- e. Tammy Reeves, hourly substitute receptionist Gilmer
- f. Kaila Steele – hourly teacher, Habersham (This is a position changed from parapro to hourly teacher)

### **ITEM IX:**

Motion by Mr. Moyer seconded by Dr. Johnson **to approve the January hiring of the personnel for the Mountain Education Center, Inc. upon completion of fingerprinting and criminal background checks. Resignation was accepted for Tammy Teasley, Habersham site full-time Secretary/Registrar. The registrar's position will be advertised for two weeks.** Dr. Behrens abstained from voting.

Motion carried. All voted yes.

### **ITEM X:**

Motion by Mr. Moyer, seconded by Ms. Middleton **to adjourn the Governing Board meeting.**

Motion carried. All voted yes.

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Dr. Behrens, Governing Board Chairperson

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Dr. Paul Shaw, Governing Board Secretary

**NEXT VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 5 PM ON  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>.**